

## Madison County Fair News

The Madison County Fair dates this year are August 13-17, 2008. Please put these dates on your calendar. We are looking for some open class sponsors. If any one would be interested in sponsoring an open class award, please call the Fair Office 406-684-5824.

Here is an update about what has been happening at the fairgrounds. As a first time new fair manager, it has been a real learning experience. I am really excited about a lot of new ideas and activities for this year's fair. In November, I went to a Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs Conference in Billings which was a great experience and very helpful. There were managers from several states attending this conference and I learned a lot about small fair entertainment to large state fair entertainment. As a result of this conference, I was able to book "Play with Gravity," motorcycle stunts. These young men will be bringing in a 60' stunt trailer and will be putting on performances Friday, August 15 and Saturday, August 16, at the fair. They will have t-shirts and other souvenirs for the public. I believe the kids and adults will really enjoy Play with Gravity! They are fun and enthusiastic young men.

Also, make sure and tell everyone that we are going to have a carnival this year at the fair. This worked out so that we are able to catch a carnival going between big fairs. This should be another huge attraction.

We've added some additional entertainment on Friday August 15, Ladder Canyon Ranch will be hosting a Ranch Hand Rodeo in the afternoon. This event will be fun for any ranch interested in joining in. Or, just come and watch and have a good time. For details, call Nancy Matheson, 406-684-5172.

The NRA Rodeo will be Friday night and Saturday afternoon. After Saturday's rodeo, we are excited to have the Ringling 5 put on a performance. If you haven't had a chance to watch the Ringling 5, don't miss this opportunity. They are a group of hilarious ranchers who can sing, dance, and perform.

We have lots of events taking place in the arena such as Senior Pro Rodeo, June 24 and June 25, team ropings, youth rodeos, NRA rodeos, and 4-H events. With this in mind, a thank you to Goodman House Logs for donating the support beams for the back of the grandstands. This is a huge help for us to be able to support the grandstands for a crowd.

In conjunction with the Montana Senior Pro Rodeo Tour, the 3 River Arena Club is proudly sponsoring the first ever *Montana Cowboy Christmas*. This tradeshow will showcase quality western crafts, clothing, tack, artwork, and wares in addition to food items on June 23, 24 & 25 at the Twin Bridges Fairgrounds. The Montana Cowboy Christmas was designed to mimic the NFR cowboy Christmas extravaganza's held each year in Vegas, and it is the hope of the arena club to pull in vendors from all over the region for this one-of-a-kind event. Admission to the public will be free. If you are a vendor and wish to showcase your western wares, please contact Shelia Kirkpatrick at 596-1130 or [hatters@3rivers.net](mailto:hatters@3rivers.net) for more information. Space will be limited, please call soon!

Aside from the fun things at the fair, we are working on some grants to help restore and preserve the round and square log buildings along with the grandstands. These buildings are part of history and make our fairgrounds very unique and one of the finest facilities in Montana. Lots of people love to drive in and admire our grounds. Thanks to all the volunteers in the community such as 3 Rivers Arena Club, 4-H Clubs, the Rotary Club, the Legion, business owners, ranchers, county

road crews, and community volunteers, our fairgrounds continues to improve and become more and more scenic and usable all the time.

We have fencing, painting, and other maintenance projects planned for this summer.

If anyone has any concerns, ideas, or questions, please email me at the fairgrounds, [mcfair@3rivers.net](mailto:mcfair@3rivers.net) or call the fair office at 406-684-5824. I would be glad to visit with you.

We are just starting on the 2008 fair book, so if you would like to advertise, be a sponsor, or a vendor at the Madison County Fair, please contact me or go online to [www.madison.mt.gov](http://www.madison.mt.gov), and I have put vendor contracts and advertising information on the county website for anyone to use.

As summer approaches, I will keep you informed of events and upcoming happenings at the fairgrounds.

If I have missed anyone in recognizing all the donations, support, and donated work hours put in at the fairgrounds, please consider this article a "thank you" in advance for all your efforts, time, and involvement to make this facility a great place to enjoy!

Dana Escott, Fair Manager